Privatisation of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

2274. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the workers are assured of continued employment in case of privatisation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Privatisation of Fertilizer Units

2275. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise some fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the fertilizers plants identified for privatisation; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No decision has been taken to privatise any fertilizer unit.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Life Saving Drugs

2276. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any schemes for the increase in the production of life-saving drugs and price control to keep such drugs within the reach of poor people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Provisions in the Drug Policy 1986 have sought to increase production of life saving drugs of good quality at reasonable prices (copy of which is available in the Parliament Library). This policy is currently being further reviewed.

Complaints against drug companies

2277. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2087 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the names of the companies against whom complaints/instances have been received or noticed by Government regarding violation of provisions of DPCO, 1979 and 1987;

(b) when was each complaint/instance received/noticed by Government;

(c) what are the details of provisions contravened by each; and

(d) who is examining these complaints and by when final conclusion would be drawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The examination of complaints/instances of provision of DPCO, 1979 and 1987 is on going process. These are looked into with the help of State Drugs Controller wherever required for taking appropriate action. The cases of overcharging in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations are more important, details of which have already been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 418 answered on 27.2.1992.

Drugs produced by companies operating under FERA and MRTP.

2278. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 2085 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the names of drugs being produced by companies operating under FERA and MRTP whose intermediates and other raw materials are exempted from custom duty or concessional duty allowed;

(b) what was the price of each drug before exemption or concession and what is the present price;

(c) what are the names of drugs being produced from intermediate or penultimate and since when each is produced;

(d) whether production of any drug has been shifted to basic stage;

(e) if so, names of these drugs and since when; and

(f) what are the names of bulk drugs which are exempted from price control and what was the earlier price given in Form-2A and what is the present price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Such details, FERA/MRTP company wise, are not being monitored. While making recommendations or sending proposals for customs duty exemption/concessional duty on intermediates/raw materials to Ministry of Finance, distinctions between MRTP/FERA companies and others are not made.

(c) to (e) These details are not being monitored.

(f) Since such bulk drugs are hundreds in number and are produced by large number of companies with price variations from time to time, the time and labour involved in collection, collation and completion of this voluminous information will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Impending closure of fertilizers units

2279. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have forewarned about the impending closure of its units and the resultng nutrient shortages due to non-payment of subsidy arrears, as reported in the 'Indian Express' (Business Express Section), New Delhi dated the 22nd February, 1992;

(b) if so, the amount at stake;

(c) whether Government are considering extension of interest free credit by the various input supplying organisations for the fertilisers units in the country facing present cash crunch; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Government has seen the Newspaper report of "Indian Express", New Delhi, dated 22nd February, 1992. As against the provision of Rs. 4000 crores for subsidy on fertilizers in the Budget Estimates for 1991-92, the corresponding provision in the Revised Estimates for the year 1991-92 has been enhanced to Rs. 4800 crores. This may result in a spill over of claims of about Rs. 1400 crores to the next year. A Budget provision of Rs. 5000 crores has been made for fertilizer subsidy for the year 1992-93.

The current year's target of production of 100 lakh tonnes of fertilizer nutrients is likely to be achieved to the extent of 98 percent and there will not be any shortage of fertilizer nutrients.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Nitro-phosphate plant

2280. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have realised that the design of Nitro Phosphate Plant itself was unproven and faulty;